



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

# VISIONS

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
WINTER 2005

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## MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER DIANNE HARNELL COHEN

2004 defined a year of accomplishments for the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs. The department acknowledges the superior work ethic and dedication displayed among the staff as they continued their efforts of overseeing the city's parks, facilities, recreational programs and cultural activities. The department achieved many objectives including increasing and improving the City's greenspace as well as installing newly equipped state of the art recreational and play facilities. In addition, the department was able to infuse arts and culture into the steadily growing and diverse community with innovative exhibits, art shows and festivals.

As the New Year begins, the department will continue to advance forward with additional objectives. Specifically, this includes the implementation of our new 2005 Departmental Workplan. This workplan outlines strategic tactics including:

- Purchasing additional capital equipment
- Establishing a new work order system
- Improving Customer Service
- Creating a Community Cultural Plan
- Implementing a new Recreation Standards program

With our Workplan in place, we can anticipate a continued positive shift in the direction of the department, ensuring that our overall goals of meeting the needs of our Atlanta residents and visitors are realized. I look forward to a productive 2005.



Commissioner  
Dianne Harnell Cohen

## PIEDMONT HOSPITAL DONATES DEFIBRILLATORS TO BUREAU OF RECREATION FACILITIES



Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen, Mayor Shirley Franklin & Piedmont Hospital President & CEO Robert Maynard pose near the recently installed AED at Piedmont Park Tennis Center.

On January 7, 2005, at the Piedmont Park Tennis Center, Mayor Shirley Franklin announced a donation from Piedmont Hospital to the City of Atlanta, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs that will allow the purchase of 68 automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Piedmont Hospital President and CEO Robert Maynard presented the gift to Mayor Shirley Franklin on behalf of the Hospital. The donation will allow the City of Atlanta to install AEDs at each of the City's Recreation

Centers to assist in emergency cardiac situations and help save lives. The AED presentation marked the official kick-off of Piedmont's 100th Anniversary Year. "Piedmont Hospital has been caring for the hearts of Atlantans for 100 years, and we look to continue offering quality care for the next century," said Robert Maynard, President and CEO of Piedmont Hospital. An AED is a small, portable and easy-to-use device used to administer an electric shock through the

chest wall to the heart. It has a built-in computer that assesses the victim's heart rhythm, judges whether defibrillation is needed and then administers the shock. "Through this strong support for our public parks and recreation centers, Piedmont Hospital exemplifies another example of the powerful impact a foundation of public-private partners can have on making a difference in the lives of the Atlanta community," said Mayor Shirley Franklin.

## BUREAU OF PARKS GREENHOUSE PROVIDES FUN & EDUCATION FOR AREA STUDENTS

Let's face it, kids love to play in the dirt. Just ask the students of Cook Elementary who recently learned with guidance from City of Atlanta Greenhouse Employees that this very common fascination could bring life to plants. On Wednesday, January 12, these 4th and 5th graders rolled up their sleeves and dug into nature's earth to begin the process of planting new life at the Maddox Park Greenhouse. A 7-week collaboration between the Bureau of Parks and Cook Elementary, selected students will be given an exclusive opportunity to learn about Horticulture and the environment, including the

importance of plants, flowers and other vegetation to our a society. Specifically, students will learn the importance of propagating plants, germination, soil and additional aspects of planting. "We hope each trip to the greenhouse will spark an interest in the children who will then have a better appreciation for plants and vegetation in their communities, school and environment," states Cook Elementary 4th grade instructor Bobby May. On this day, children planted coleus and

angel wing begonias, beautiful garden plants known for having distinctive leaf shapes. "I can't wait to see what my plant will look like when it begins to grow," states 4th grader Todd Hogan. For successfully completing their first hands on session, each student received a plant to take home and cultivate. For more information on this program, contact the Bureau of Parks at 404-817-6744.



Bureau of Parks employee Thaddeus Hudson guides Cook Elementary students on a tour of various types of plants and vegetation at the Maddox Park Greenhouse.

## CITY GALLERY EAST PRESENTS 11TH ANNUAL MASTERS SERIES

The City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs' City Gallery East is pleased to present the 11th Annual Masters Series exhibition, TRADITIONS, February 4 – April 1, 2005. This year's exhibition features the late Tamarind Master Printer Wayne Kline and artist George Beasley who counts among his professions, sculptor, professor and performance installation artist. This exhibit fuses together their diverse talents for a journey into the variations of lithography, sculpture, drawings and other media.

TRADITIONS will be a great tribute to the innovative and masterful artwork created by Mr. Kline who recently succumbed to cancer after

a long battle. The exhibition will highlight two of Mr. Kline's most successful series, "Mother, May I?" and "Nineties, Man!"

George Beasley, who is also the founder of the Sculpture Department at Georgia State University, showcases photographs of the "fire and iron events," masterful drawings of the tools used to harvest peat, a partially carbonized vegetable matter saturated with water that can be used as fuel when dried.

City Gallery East is located on the 1st floor of City Hall East at 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue. The gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 404-817-6980 or visit [www.bcaatlanta.com](http://www.bcaatlanta.com).

## DEPARTMENT CYBER CENTERS EXPAND PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

In today's age of computers and technology it has become increasingly important to stay abreast of available opportunities for improving skills in efforts to enhance career performance and work development within the rapidly changing job market. The Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA) and the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs (DPRCA) has recognized this need in many communities. On January 18, 2005 the AWDA and DPRCA Cyber Centers partnered to provide full-time

trained staff to assist residents with GED and SAT Preparation, resume building skills, workforce development as well as offer effective test taking skills and computer Based Training Software for specific occupations. "Residents now have the chance to create resumes, complete job applications on-line and navigate new computer programs with specialized assistance," states Department of Parks, Recrea-

tion and Cultural Affairs Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen. "The AWDA is in the business of helping others, help themselves and this is a great way to get people started," states Debra Lum, Executive Director of the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency. For more information please contact the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency at 404-658-9675.

### CYBER CENTER LOCATIONS

**Bessie Branham**  
(404)371-5010

**Ben Hill Recreation Center**  
(404)346-5891

**Adamsville**  
(404)505-3181

**Dunbar Recreation Center**  
(404)658-7117

**John C. Birdine Center**  
(404)658-7855

**Grove Park**  
(404)799-2342

**Oakland**  
(404)756-1858

## OAKLAND CEMETERY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs proudly presents its annual Black History Tour at Oakland Cemetery. Experience the unique history of some of the earliest recorded African Americans buried at this cemetery including Carrie Steele Logan, who established the first black orphanage in Atlanta, Bishop Wesley John Gaines, minister and founder of Morris Brown College, Antoine Graves, pioneer real estate broker and Atlanta's First African American Mayor Maynard Jackson. Each tour is free and open to the public. For more information call 404-658-6019 or you may visit [www.oaklandcemetery.com](http://www.oaklandcemetery.com).

**Oakland Cemetery  
Black History Tour  
February 26, 2005**

## CITY OF ATLANTA DOLPHINS (CAD) SWIM TEAM TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR INSPIRATIONAL MEET

The City of Atlanta Dolphins (CAD) Swim Team will once again travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Invitational Swim Meet. On February 19-20, in the newly constructed 50-meter Takoma Aquatic Center, thirty-three CAD swimmers and teams from across the nation will gather to showcase their talent and skill. This event held in honor of Black History Month allow teams ages 5-16 the opportunity to compete against the best swimmers from across the nation. Each year an inspirational athlete also attends the event to encourage and inspire participants. The goal of the *motivational speakers* is to show these predominately black teams that they, too, can achieve great things in the sport of swimming. "It is fantastic that our swimmers are able to participate but the true reward of this competition is the valuable life lessons learned over the course of two days," states Janet Davis Adamsville Natatorium Aquatics Manager. For more information please contact the Adamsville Natatorium at 404-505-3181 or visit [www.adamsvillerecreation.com](http://www.adamsvillerecreation.com).

## MOVING FORWARD: UPCOMING/ONGOING PARK DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

### 1st Quarter Projects:

- Thomasville Park Site Improvements
- Rosel Fann ( Southeast Recreation Center Improvements)
- M.L. King, Jr. Natatorium Renovation
- Central Park Building Renovations
- Southbend Park Lodge Renovations Improvements

## 2005 REGISTRATION/ACTIVITIES

**Senior Olympics — Register now through April 1**

The 2005 Senior Olympics will be hosted by the Marcus Jewish Community Center in Atlanta May 13-17, 2005. Events will be held at various venues throughout metro Atlanta including Adamsville Recreation Center and Bitsy Grant Tennis Center. Any person who will be 50 years or older before May 13, 2005 is eligible to participate. Registration forms are available at all City of Atlanta Recreation Centers or online at [www.atlantaseniorolympics.com](http://www.atlantaseniorolympics.com). For additional questions please call (770)395-2553.

**Camp Best Friends — March 1**

Registration begins for **Camp Best Friends**, the City of Atlanta's Premier Summer Camp Program. This camp offers children ages 6-16 an enriching traditional camp experience in addition to sports, arts & crafts, hiking, dance, games and educational trips. The 8 week program begins May 31. For more information call (404) 817-6766.

**McGhee Open & National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Tournament — Entry Deadline — March 6**

The Tournament is open to all ages, singles, doubles and mixed teams. Tournament dates are March 10 -13. For more information contact the McGhee Tennis Center at (404) 756-1869.

**Youth Baseball/Softball—Register now through March 21**

Boys and girls ages 14 and under can register now for Youth Baseball & Softball Teams. For more information, including a listing of participating recreation centers, contact the Bureau of Recreation at (404) 817-6766.

**PRE'SCool— March 5 & April 9**

The 2005 PRE'SCool Application **Session & Registration** will be held in the Bureau of Cultural Affairs (located on the 5th floor in City Hall East) from 10 a.m.— 2 p.m. Young artists age's 11-13 will have a rare opportunity to gain valuable art education and training while having fun. For more information call Tiffani Bryant at (404) 817-6994.

**Chastain Arts Center Art Classes — March 14**

Spring registration begins for all classes at the Chastain Arts Center. There are a wide variety of classes available including drawing basic and beginning, painting with oils and watercolors, pottery and jewelry making. Please call (404) 525-2927 for more information.

**ARTSCool - March 19, April 2 & April 9**

The 2005 ARTSCool Application **Session & Registration** will be held in The Bureau of Cultural Affairs (located on the 5th floor in City Hall East) from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. This distinctive program provides youth ages 14-18 specialized art education and development skills. For more information call Tiffani Bryant at (404) 817-6994.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**  
**2005 ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL**


The City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs is looking for a few serious volunteers. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of one of the Country's largest free jazz festivals, The 2005 Atlanta Jazz Festival! In its 28th year, this annual staple continues to provide the City of Atlanta with an opportunity to unify its diverse population, celebrate Atlanta's rich cultural heritage and promote tourism.

**Volunteer Period:** February – June 2005\*

**Festival Dates:** Memorial Day Weekend  
May 28 – May 30, 2005.

**31 Days of Jazz**  
May 1 – 31, 2005

We invite you to join in the experience as a "Jazzteer"! If you are interested in working as a Jazzteer with the 2005 Atlanta Jazz Festival, please call 404.817.6851 or forward an email to [bcamusic@atantaga.gov](mailto:bcamusic@atantaga.gov). Please be sure to visit the Bureau of Cultural Affairs' official website at [www.bcaatlanta.com](http://www.bcaatlanta.com).

\*During this time, volunteers will be requested on an as needed basis leading up to the Festival period.

**Park Pride Conference**

**April 11, 2005**

Visit [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)

or call (404) 817-7969

for more information.



## EMPLOYEE NEWS

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Robert Lung, Atlanta Civic Center Maintenance Supervisor, for being selected as the *Employee of the Quarter*! Mr. Lung has been employed with the department for over 5 years. This outstanding acknowledgement came as a complete surprise to Mr. Lung. He responds, "I am truly stunned and grateful for being chosen." In addition to being recognized during a department wide meeting, Mr. Lung received a \$50.00 gift certificate and name placement on the department's official Employee of the Quarter Plaque. The Employee of the Quarter program recognizes invaluable contributions of fellow employees, while honoring their exceptional dedication to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. To be eligible, employees must be nominated by a colleague. All nominations are then reviewed by The Employee Task Force. Nomination forms are available in the Commissioner's Office or by contacting a task force representative. Call (404) 817.6924 for additional information.



Employee of the Quarter Robert Lung with Employee Task Force representative Rene' Ward (pictured left) and Atlanta Civic Center Director Ann Marie Moraitakis (pictured right).

## 1ST QUARTER ANNIVERSARIES

5 years and over

Wayne Collier  
2/8/00

Will Davis  
2/22/00

Romondo Davidson  
3/27/98

Robert Goodwin  
2/1/00

Patrick Graham  
3/9/00

Issac "Ike" Martin  
2/17/00

Ann Marie Moraitakis  
2/13/97

Vickey Roberts  
2/24/97

Gary Smith  
2/14/00

Jimmie Vaughn  
3/12/99

10 years and over

Parthenia Mitchell  
3/2/93

Craig Reed  
3/18/93

Victoria Todd-Washington  
3/29/94

15 years and over

Lutisha Arnold  
3/13/85

Otis Beauford  
3/25/77

Norris Cooper  
2/16/77

Lorenzo Duffy  
3/23/78

Williams Edwards  
3/10/87

Curtis Floyd  
3/15/72

Ken Gillett  
2/21/89

Joann Jackson  
2/7/90

Ronald Jackson  
3/28/63

Jean Minor  
2/19/74

Roscue Murchison  
3/15/84

William Rutherford  
2/3/83

William Spann  
3/10/88

Stevie Waller  
3/20/90

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: EMMA CLARK, RECREATION FACILITY MANAGER



Emma Clark, Facility Manager at Thomasville and Arthur Langford Recreation Centers was recently featured in the highly respected Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center Magazine. The article highlighted her notable 18-year career with the department, her tireless dedication to the community and the valuable contribution of computers and Internet service provided by the Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center to the Thomasville Recreation Center. This collaboration offers useful health information and serves as a technology hub for children and adults in this neighborhood. For more information on the Computer Center at Thomasville please visit [www.msm.edu/prc.com](http://www.msm.edu/prc.com) or call 404-624-0816.

## OUR MISSION

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is to provide all residents and visitors with the highest quality parks, facilities, recreational programs and cultural experiences.

For more information about the services and programs of the City of Atlanta, watch City Channel 26 or visit us online at [www.atlantaga.gov](http://www.atlantaga.gov).

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**City of Atlanta**

**Honorable Shirley Franklin  
Mayor**

**Atlanta City Council**

**Honorable Lisa Borders, President**

Honorable Carla Smith, District 1

Honorable Debi Starnes, District 2

Honorable Ivory Lee Young, Jr. District 3

Honorable Cleta Winslow, District 4

Honorable Natalyn Mosby Archibong, District 5

Honorable Anne Fauver, District 6

Honorable Howard Shook, District 7

Honorable Clair Muller, District 8

Honorable Felicia A. Moore, District 9

Honorable C.T. Martin, District 10

Honorable Jim Maddox, District 11

Honorable Joyce Sheperd, District 12

Honorable Ceasar C. Mitchell, Post 1

Honorable Mary Norwood, Post 2

Honorable H. Lamar Willis, Post 3

**DIANNE HARNELL COHEN, COMMISSIONER**

**JAY LOWERY, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF PARKS**

**TRUMAN TOLEFREE, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF RECREATION**

**CAMILLE RUSSELL LOVE, DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**SUSHMA K. DERSCH, MANAGER  
PARK DESIGN OFFICE**

**ANN MARIE MORAITAKIS, DIRECTOR  
BOISFEUILLET JONES ATLANTA CIVIC CENTER**

**DARLENE JACKSON, BUSINESS MANAGER  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICE**